

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-10 SAM-01 OMB-01

SCCT-01 /076 W

----- 123026

O R 220855Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7794

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 15434

DELIVER TO DRAPER, NEA/ARN OPENING OF BUSINESS

TEL AVIV FOR ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: 0900 LEBANON REPORT

1. WHILE BEIRUT ITSELF WAS RELATIVELY QUIET FOR LAST 24 HOURS, RAS BEIRUT, WHERE MOST AMERICANS NOW RESIDE, SPENT A NOISY NIGHT. WE DOUBT THAT THERE ARE ANY CASUALTIES, BUT THERE WAS A LOT OF FIRING INDICATIVE OF NERVOUSNESS OF LOCALS PLUS FACT THAT DRUZE HAVE MOVED IN AND ARE EXTREMELY TRIGGER HAPPY.

2. OUTSIDE OF BEIRUT THINGS ARE BAD. THE ASSASSINATION OF THE GOVERNOR OF NORTH LEBANON, A JUMBLATTIST DRUZE, HAS MADE EVERYONE MORE NERVOUS THAN HERETOFORE. A REPORT THAT MAJID ARSLAN'S CAR (SUBSEQUENTLY DENIED) WAS MACHINEGUNNED HAS ALSO CONTRIBUTED TO THE STATE OF MIND. GOVT HAS ARRESTED PERSONS IN CONNECTION WITH GOVERNOR'S KILLING AND HAS IMPLIED IT KNOWS THE WHOLE STORY. NOTHING RPT NOTHING HAS BEEN SAID PUBLICLY WHICH HAS CONTRIBUTED IMMEASURABLY TO LOCAL RUMOR
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MILL. ZAHLE WA HEAVILY MORTARED, ANXY THERE HAS BEEN

FIGHTING AT MANSOURIEH, A VILLAGE HALF WAY UP THE MOUNTAINS
NORTHEAST OF BEIRUT WHICH HAS HERETOFORE BEEN CALM. PRESS
REPORTS INCREASE PILLAGING.

3. IN MEANTIME, SHIHABI HAS RETURNED TO DAMASCUS AND
KARAME HAS FOLLOWED HIM THERE TODAY. YESTERDAY LUCIEN
DAHDAH, (INTRABANK) BORTHER OF SURETE CHIEF TONDY DADAH AND
INTIMATE OF PRES FRANGIE, SPENT THE DAY IN DAMASCUS WHERE
HE SAW KHADDAM. EVEN GREEK CATHOLIC CHURCH IS NOW IN-
VOLVED WITH MAXIMOS FIVE, INVITING EGYPTIAN MEDIATION.
RE LATTER, IT IS DIFFICULT TO SORT OUT WHAT EXACTLY IS GOING
ON RE KING KHALID AND OTHER INTERMEDIARIES. "L'ORIENT-
LE JOUR" REPORTS ATHERTON, SADAT AND FAHMY MEETINGS
UNDERLINING ATHERTON NOT RPT NOT A NEGOTIATOR AND MEET-
INGS WERE TO EXCHANGE VIEWS.

4. CHRISTMAS IS THREE DAYS OFF, BUT ONE WOULD NOT KNOW
IT IN BEIRUT. CITY REPLEAT WITH GHASTLY RUMORS RE LAST
DITCH CHRISTIAN STAND OVER THE HOLY DAYS. EVERYONE, HOWEVER,
HAS NOT RPT NOTTGONE CRAZY, AND THE ONE BIT OF GOOD NEWS
IS THAT THE LEFT AND PALESTINIANS ISSUED VIA Wafa YESTERDAY
STATEMENT RE AFFIRMING THEIR ADHESION TO CEASEFIRE
AND SPEAKING HOLIDAY PEACE.

5. EMBASSY PHONES WORKING.
GODLEY

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